

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Siddhartha "Sam" Shah, 51, of Pleasant Prairie, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 21 months in prison and a \$20,000 fine for smuggling and harboring four illegal aliens at Shah's Super 8 Motels in Wisconsin Dells and Pleasant Prairie from 2005 to 2007. Shah pleaded guilty to this charge on August 23, 2007.

The defendant traveled to Guatemala and arranged to smuggle workers to the United States so that they could work at his motels. One of the workers lived in a utility closet at one of Shah's motels. In sentencing the defendant to the high end of the applicable sentencing guideline range, Judge Crabb found that the seriousness of the offense warranted the relatively high sentence.

The charges are the result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General, and the Wisconsin Dells Police Department. The prosecution of this case was handled by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott.

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